

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

The Abstract, the specification and claims 1-32 have been amended at least partly in response to issues raised in the Office Action. New claims 33-40 have been added and are directed to preferred features removed from claims 2, 3, 15, 16, 19 and 21. Accordingly, claims 1-40 are now pending in this application.

Applicants acknowledge receipt of a facsimile copy of the Office Action apparently mailed on January 10, 2003. To complete their file, Applicants request a copy of the cover sheet of the Office Action and a copy of the PTO-1449 form identified as an attachment to the Office Action.

The Examiner notes that the Title of the Invention in the Declaration is in the French language. The Title of the application filed in the Patent and Trademark Office on July 11, 2001 without a declaration was in French. The Declaration filed October 22, 2001 retained the original Title when referring to the application to provide a connection between the as-filed application and the Declaration. Since all subsequently filed documents refer to the Title in English, Applicants believe the record is clear regarding the title of the invention in the Declaration.

The Abstract has been amended as required in paragraph (4) of the Office Action.

Also, the specification has been amended to capitalize all trademarks as required in paragraph (6) of the Office Action. The objection to claims 5-29 and 32 in paragraph (7)

has been obviated by amending the dependencies so that no multiple dependent claims are present in this application.

Claims 2-4 and 30-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the various reasons set forth in paragraphs (10), (11), (12) and (13) of the Office Action. Claims 30-31 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for failing to set forth any process steps. In response to these rejections, claims 2-4, 30 and 31 have been amended and are free of the objections raised in paragraphs (10) through (13) of the Office Action.

Claims 1-4, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by WO 98/00449 to Sharma et al. for the reasons given in paragraph (16) of the Office Action. In addition, claims 1-4, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,746,455 to Matsuda et al. for the reasons given in paragraph (17) of the Office Action. Reconsideration of these rejections is requested in view of the above amendments and for at least the following reasons.

Present claim 1 has been amended such that the instant claims are specific to a crease-resistant, softening, pre-spotting fabric treating composition. Support for this amendment may be found throughout the specification and original claims. Thus, the compositions of the invention possess the properties of reducing or preventing the wrinkling of fabrics, assisting in the ironing of fabrics, softening fabrics and acting as a pre-spotting formulation. The cited references do not disclose compositions which possess these properties.

Specifically, the compositions of Sharma '449 are disclosed as useful as sizes for slasher dyeing of textiles to provide yarn abrasion resistance, blocking, water resistance,

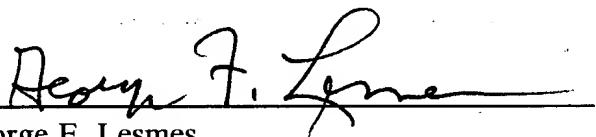
wet fastness/bleeding and wet crock resistance. The formulations are also disclosed as useful in cleaning hard surfaces. Matsuda '445 discloses that the polymeric formulations described therein prevent felt shrinkage when the wool fabrics are machine washed.

Thus, neither reference is anticipatory because the formulations disclosed therein are not characterized as crease-resistant, softening, pre-spotting fabric treating compositions. Therefore, the §102(b) rejections over Sharma '449 and Matsuda 445 should be withdrawn.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 8, 2003

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Paragraph Beginning at Page 9, line 14

As examples of monomers from which the anionic or anionizable hydrophilic units (F3) are derived, mention may be made of:

- monomers containing at least one carboxylic function, such as α - β ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids or anhydrides, acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, fumaric or itaconic acids or anhydrides, N-methacroylalanine or N-acryloylhydroxyglycine, and water-soluble salts thereof,
- monomers containing at least one sulphate or sulphonate function, such as 2-sulphooxyethyl methacrylate, vinylbenzenesulphonic acid, allylsulphonic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulphonic acid, sulphoethyl acrylate or methacrylate, or sulphopropyl acrylate or methacrylate, and water-soluble salts thereof,
- monomers containing at least one phosphonate or phosphate function, such as vinylphosphonic acid, esters of ethylenically unsaturated phosphates such as phosphates derived from hydroxyethyl methacrylate ([Empicryl] EMPICRYL 6835 from Rhodia) and those derived from polyoxyalkyler'e methacrylates and water-soluble salts thereof,
- α - β monoethylenically unsaturated monomers that are precursors of anionic function(s), such as those whose hydrolysis generates carboxylate functions (tert-butyl acrylate, dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, maleic anhydride, etc.)

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Paragraph Beginning at Page 10, line 15

As examples of monomers from which the uncharged or non-ionizable hydrophilic units (F4) are derived, mention may be made of:

- hydroxyalkyl esters of α - β ethylenically unsaturated acids, such as hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, etc. acrylates and methacrylates,
- α - β ethylenically unsaturated acid amides, such as acrylamide, N, N-dimethyl methacrylamide, N-methylolacrylamide, etc.,
- α - β ethylenically unsaturated monomers bearing a water-soluble polyoxyalkylenated segment of the polyethylene oxide type, such as polyethylene oxide α -methacrylates ([Bisomer] BISOMER S2OW, SLOW, etc. from Laporte) or α , ω -dimethacrylates, [Sipomer] SIPOMER BEM from Rhodia (polyoxyethylene ω -behenyl methacrylate), [Sipomer] SIPOMER SEM-25 from Rhodia (polyoxyethylene ω -tristyrylphenyl methacrylate), etc.,
- α - β ethylenically unsaturated monomers that are precursors of hydrophilic units or segments, such as vinyl acetate, which, once polymerized, may be hydrolysed to generate vinyl alcohol units or polyvinyl alcohol segments,
- α - β ethylenically unsaturated monomers of ureido type and in particular methacrylamidoethyl-2-imidazolidinone ([Sipomer] SIPOMER WAM II from Rhodia).

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Paragraph Beginning at Page 18, line 17

As examples of nanoparticles or a nanolatex of polymer (P), mention may be made in particular of nanoparticles or a nanolatex of copolymers containing units derived from

- * methyl methacrylate/butyl acrylate/hydroxyethyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid, the glass transition temperature Tg of which may range from 10°C to 80°C, depending on the composition of the said polymer
- * methyl methacrylate/ethylene glycol dimethacrylate/methacrylic acid, the glass transition temperature Tg of which may range from 10°C to 80°C, depending on the composition of the said polymer
- * styrene/divinylbenzene/methacrylic acid, the glass transition temperature Tg of which may range from 100°C to 140°C, depending on the composition of the said polymer
- * styrene/butyl acrylate/hydroxyethyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid, the glass transition temperature Tg of which may range from 10°C to 80°C, depending on the composition of the said polymer
- * Veova 10 (vinyl C₁₀ versatate)/methyl methacrylate/butyl acrylate/methacrylic acid, the glass transition temperature Tg of which may range from 10°C to 80°C, depending on the composition of the said polymer
- * methyl methacrylate/butyl acrylate/hydroxyethyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid/N, N-dimethyl-N-methacryloyloxyethyl-N- (3-sulphopropyl) ammonium sulphobetaine

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(SPE from Raschig), the glass transition temperature Tg of which may range from 10°C to 80°C, depending on the composition of the said polymer

- * methyl methacrylate/butyl acrylate/hydroxyethyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid/vinylphosphonic acid, the glass transition temperature Tg of which may range from 10°C to 80°C, depending on the composition of the said polymer
- * methyl methacrylate/butyl acrylate/hydroxyethyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid/[Empicryl] EMPICRYL 6835 from Rhodia, the glass transition temperature Tg of which may range from 10°C to 80°C, depending on the composition of the said polymer.

Paragraph Beginning at Page 21, line 8

The detergent formulation may comprise surfactants in an amount corresponding to about 3% to 40% by weight relative to the detergent formulation, these surfactants being such as

Anionic surfactants

- alkyl ester sulphonates of formula $R-CH(SO_3M)-COOR'$,
in which R represents a C₈-C₂₀ and preferably C₁₀-C₁₆ alkyl radical, R' represents a C₁-C₆ and preferably C₁-C₃ alkyl radical and M represents an alkali metal (sodium, potassium or lithium) cation, a substituted or unsubstituted ammonium (methyl-, dimethyl-, trimethyl or tetramethylammonium, dimethylpiperidinium, etc.) or an alkanolamine derivative

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(monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, etc.). Mention may be made most particularly of methyl ester sulphonates in which the radical R is C₁₄-C₁₆;

- alkyl sulphates of formula ROSO₃M, in which R represents a C₅-C₂₄ and preferably C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl radical, M representing a hydrogen atom or a cation of the same definition as above, and also the ethoxylated (EO) and/or propoxylated (PO) derivatives thereof, containing on average from 0.5 to 30 and preferably from 0.5 to 10 EO and/or PO units;
- alkylamide sulphates of formula RCONHR'OSO₃M in which R represents a C₂-C₂₂ and preferably C₆-C₂₀ alkyl radical, R' represents a C₂-C₃ alkyl radical, M representing a hydrogen atom or a cation of the same definition as above, and also the ethoxylated (EO) and/or propoxylated (PO) derivatives thereof, containing on average from 0.5 to 60 EO and/or PO units;
- saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₄ and preferably C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acid salts, C₉-C₂₀ alkylbenzenesulphonates, primary or secondary C₈-C₂₂ alkylsulphonates, alkylglyceryl sulphonates, the sulphonated polycarboxylic acids described in GB-A-1 082 179, paraffin sulphonates, N-acyl N-alkyltaurates, alkyl phosphates, isethionates, alkyl succinates, alkyl sulphosuccinates, sulpho- succinate monoesters or diesters, N-acyl sarcosinates, alkylglycoside sulphates, polyethoxycarboxylates; the cation being an alkali metal (sodium, potassium or lithium), a substituted or unsubstituted ammonium residue (methyl-, dimethyl-, trimethyl- or tetramethyl-

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ammonium, dimethylpiperidinium, etc.) or an alkanolamine derivative
(monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, etc.);

Nonionic surfactants

- polyoxyalkylenated (polyoxyethylenated, polyoxypropylenated or polyoxybutylenated) alkylphenols in which the alkyl substituent is C₆-C₁₂ and containing from 5 to 25 oxyalkylene units; examples which may be mentioned are the products [Triton] TRITON X-45, X-114, X-100 or X-102 sold by Rohm & Haas Co.;
- glucosamide, glucamide or glycerolamide;
- polyoxyalkylenated C₈-C₂₂ aliphatic alcohols containing from 1 to 25 oxyalkylene (oxyethylene or oxypropylene) units; examples which may be mentioned are the products [Tergitol] TERGITOL 15-S-9 and [Tergitol] TERGITOL 24-L-6 NMW sold by Union Carbide Corp., [Neodol] NEODOL 45-9, [Neodol] NEODOL 23-65, [Neodol] NEODOL 45-7 and [Neodol] NEODOL 45-4 sold by Shell Chemical Co., and [Kyro] KYRO EOB sold by The Procter & Gamble Co.;
- products resulting from the condensation of ethylene oxide or the compound resulting from the condensation of propylene oxide with propylene glycol, such as the [Pluronic] products sold by BASF;

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- products resulting from the condensation of ethylene oxide or the compound resulting from the condensation of propylene oxide with ethylenediamine, such as the [Tetronic] TETRONIC products sold by BASF;
- amine oxides such as C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl dimethylamine oxides and C₈-C₂₂ alkoxy ethyl dihydroxyethylamine oxides;
- the alkylpolyglycosides described in US-A-4 565 647;
- C₈-C₂₀ fatty acid amides;
- ethoxylated fatty acids;
- ethoxylated fatty amides;
- ethoxylated amines.

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Paragraph Beginning at Page 37, line 1

Example 1

Detergent formulation

Formulation	(A) with P	(B) colour without P	(C) without P
Constituents	% by weight	% by weight	% by weight
NaTPP	40		
Zeolite 4A	0	25	25
2 SiO ₂ , Na ₂ O silicate	5	5	5
Sodium carbonate	5	15	15
Acrylate/maleate copolymer [Sokalan] <u>SOKALAN</u> CP5 (BASF)	0	5	5
Sodium sulphate	8	21	8
CMC [blanose] <u>BLANOSE</u> 7MXF (Hercules)	1	1	1
Perborate monohydrate	15	0	15
Granulated TAED	5	0	5
Anionic surfactant Laurylbenzene sulphate (Nansa)	6	8	6
Nonionic surfactant [Symperonie] <u>SYMPERONIC</u> A3 (3 EO ethoxylated alcohol - ICI)	3	5	3

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Nonionic surfactant [Symperonic] <u>SYMPERONIC A9</u> (9 EO ethoxylated alcohol - ICI)	9	11	9
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Paragraph Beginning at Page 38, line 1

Formulation	(A) with P	(B) colour without P	(C) without P
Constituents	% by weight	% by weight	% by weight
Enzymes (esterases, amylases, cellulase, protease)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Fragrances	1	1	1
Latex (I) (% solids)	1.0	1.0	1.0
Polyvinylpyrrolidone	0	1	0
Soil-release sulphonated copolyester [Repel-O-Tex] <u>REPEL-O-TEX</u> PF 594 from Rhodia	0.5	0.5	0.5

Paragraph Beginning at Page 39, line 1

They are then washed using the above detergent formulation containing latex (I) and rinsed once, under the following conditions:

- number of test pieces per Tergotometer drum: 2
- volume of water: 1 litre
- water of French hardness 30⁰TH obtained by suitable dilution of
[Contrexéville] CONTREXÉVILLE® brand mineral water
- washing product concentration: 5 g/l

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- washing temperature: 40°C
- washing time: 20 min
- spin speed of the Tergotometer: 100 rpm
- rinsing with cold water (about 30°TH)
- rinsing time: 5 minutes

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Please replace the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

Composition for fabric care, in particular for cotton-based fabrics, comprising nanoparticles or a nanolatex of a polymer which is insoluble under the direct and/or indirect working conditions of the said composition in an aqueous or wet medium. The composition may be a solid or liquid detergent formulation, a liquid rinsing and/or softening formulation, a tumble dryer additive placed in contact with the wet fabrics in a tumble dryer, an aqueous ironing formulation or a prespotter placed on the dry fabrics prior to a washing operation.

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

1. (Amended) [Composition for fabric care, characterized in that it] A crease-resistant, softening, pre-spotting fabric treating composition which comprises nanoparticles or at least one nanolatex of at least one polymer (P) which is insoluble under the working conditions of the said composition in an aqueous or wet medium.

2. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein said nanoparticles or the said nanolatex have a mean particle size of polymer of from 10 to 500 nm[, preferably from 20 to 300 nm, most particularly from 20 to 100 nm and even more particularly from 20 to 50 nm].

3. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 2, [characterized in that the] wherein said nanolatex has a solids content from 10% to 50% by weight [and preferably from 20% to 40% by weight].

4. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 1 [to 3], [characterized in that it] which is in the form

* of a solid or of a concentrated aqueous dispersion, placed in contact with the fabrics to be treated, after dilution in water;

* of a concentrated dispersion placed beforehand on the dry fabrics to be treated before dilution in water;

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

- * of an aqueous dispersion to be placed directly on the dry fabrics to be treated without dilution or of a solid support comprising the [said particles] nanoparticles or the [said] nanolatex, to be applied directly to the dry fabrics to be treated; or
- * of an insoluble solid support comprising the said particles or the said nanolatex placed directly in contact with the wet fabrics to be treated.

5. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 1 [to 4], [characterized in that it] which comprises from 0.05 % to 10% of the said particles or of the said nanolatex expressed as dry weight.

6. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 1 [to 5], [characterized in that the] wherein said composition is

- a solid or liquid detergent formulation comprising from 0.05 % to 5 % [and preferably from 0.1 % to 3 %] of the said particles or of the said nanolatex, expressed as dry weight, capable of directly forming a washing bath by dilution;
- a liquid rinsing and/or softening formulation comprising from 0.05 % to 3 % [and preferably from 0.1 % to 2 %] of the said particles or of the said nanolatex, expressed as dry weight, capable of directly forming a rinsing and/or softening bath by dilution;

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

- a solid material, in particular a textile, comprising from 0.05 % to 10 % [and preferably from 0.1 % to 5 %] of the said particles or of the said nanolatex, expressed as dry weight, which is [intended] to be placed in contact with wet fabrics in a tumble dryer;
- an aqueous ironing formulation comprising from 0.05 % to 10 % [and preferably from 0.1 % to 5 %] of the said particles or of the said nanolatex, expressed as dry weight;
- a washing additive comprising from 0.05 % to 10 % [and preferably from 0.1 % to 5 %] of the said particles or of the said nanolatex, expressed as dry weight, [intended] to be placed on the dry fabrics prior to a washing operation using a detergent formulation containing or not containing the said particles or the said nano latex.

7. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 1 [to 6],
[characterized in that the] wherein said polymer (P) comprises:

- hydrophobic monomer units (N) that are uncharged or non-ionizable at the working pH of the composition [of the invention],
- optionally at least one hydrophilic monomer unit (F) chosen from monomer units
 - * (F1) that are cationic or cationizable at the working pH of the said composition,
 - * (F2) that are amphoteric at the working pH of the said composition,
 - * (F3) that are anionic or anionizable at the working pH of the said composition,

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

* (F4) that are uncharged or non-ionizable, of hydrophilic nature, at the working pH of the said composition,

* or mixtures thereof

- and optionally at least one crosslinking unit (R).

8. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 7, [characterized in that the] wherein said monomer units (N) and (F) are derived from α - β monoethylenically unsaturated monomers, and the optional monomer units (R) are derived from diethylenically unsaturated monomers.

9. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 7 [or 8], [characterized in that] wherein the hydrophobic units (N) are derived from vinylaromatic monomers, from alkyl esters of α - β monoethylenically unsaturated acids, from vinyl or allylic esters of saturated carboxylic acids or from α - β monoethylenically unsaturated nitriles.

10. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 7 [to 9], [characterized in that] wherein the cationic or cationizable hydrophilic units (F1) are derived from N,N- (dialkylamino-c3-alkyl) amides of α - β monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, from α - β monoethylenically unsaturated amino esters or from monomers that are precursors of primary amine functions by hydrolysis.

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

11. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 7 [to 10], [characterized in that] wherein the amphoteric hydrophilic units (F2) are derived from N,N-dimethyl N-methacryloyloxyethyl-N- (3-sulphopropyl) ammonium sulphobetaine, N,N-dimethyl-N- (2-methacrylamidoethyl) -N- (3-sulphopropyl) ammonium betaine, 1-vinyl-3- (3-sulphopropyl) imidazolidium betaine, 1- (3-sulphopropyl) -2-vinylpyridinium betaine, derivatives of the quaternization reaction of N-(dialkylamino- ω -alkyl) amides of α - β ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, or α - β monoethylenically unsaturated amino esters, with a chloroacetate of an alkali metal or of propane sultone.

12. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 7 [to 11], [characterized in that] wherein the anionic or anionizable hydrophilic units (F3) are derived from α - β monoethylenically unsaturated monomers containing at least one carboxylic function, α - β monoethylenically unsaturated monomers containing at least one sulphate or sulphonate function, α - β monoethylenically unsaturated monomers containing at least one phosphonate or phosphate function, and water-soluble salts thereof, or α - β monoethylenically unsaturated monomers that are precursors of carboxylic function(s) by hydrolysis.

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

13. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 7 [to 12], [characterized in that] wherein the uncharged or non-ionizable hydrophilic units (F4) are derived from hydroxyalkyl esters of α - β monoethylenically unsaturated acids, α - β monoethylenically unsaturated acid amides, α - β ethylenically unsaturated monomers bearing a water-soluble polyoxyalkylenated segment, α - β monoethylenically unsaturated monomers that are precursors of vinyl alcohol units or of polyvinyl alcohol segments by polymerization and then hydrolysis, or methacrylamidoethyl-2-imidazolidinone.

14. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 7 [to 13], [characterized in that] wherein the crosslinking units (R) are derived from divinylbenzene, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, allyl methacrylate, methylenebis (acrylamide) or glyoxal bis (acrylamide).

15. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 7 [to 14], [characterized in that] wherein the choice and the relative amounts of the monomer(s) from which the units(s) (N), (F) and (R) of the polymer (P) are derived are such that the said polymer (P) has a glass transition temperature T_g from -40°C to 150°C , [preferably from 0 to 100°C and most particularly from 10 to 80°C .] and remains insoluble under the working conditions of the composition [of the invention].

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

16. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 7 [to 15], [characterized in that] wherein at least 70 % of the total mass of the said polymer (P) is formed from hydrophobic unit(s) (N) and in that, when they are present, the hydrophilic units (F) represent not more than 30 % of the total mass of the polymer (P) and the crosslinking units (R) represent not more than 20%, [preferably not more than 10% and most particularly not more than 5 %,] of the total mass of the polymer (P).

17. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 16, [characterized in that it] which comprises [particles] nanoparticles or at least one nanolatex of at least one uncharged or non-ionizable polymer (P1) comprising

- at least 70 % of its weight of hydrophobic monomer units (N)
- optionally at least 1 % [and preferably from 3 % to 30 %] of its weight of uncharged or non-ionizable hydrophilic monomer units (F4)
- optionally not more than 20 % [and preferably not more than 10 %] of its weight of uncharged or non-ionizable crosslinking units (R).

18. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 17, [characterized in that the] wherein said composition is a detergent formulation, a rinsing and/or softening formulation, a tumble dryer additive, an aqueous ironing formulation or a prespotter.

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

19. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 16, [characterized in that it] which comprises [particles] nanoparticles or at least one nanolatex of at least one polymer (P2) containing anionic or anionizable units and being free of cationic or cationizable units, comprising

- at least 70% of its weight of hydrophobic monomer units (N)
- at least 1% of its weight, [preferably from 3% to 30% of its weight and most particularly from 1% to 20% of its weight,] of anionic or anionizable hydrophilic monomer units (F3)
- optionally not more than 29% of its weight of uncharged or non-ionizable hydrophilic monomer units (F4)

20. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 19, [characterized in that the] wherein said composition is a detergent formulation, a tumble dryer additive, an aqueous ironing formulation or a prespotter.

21. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 16, [characterized in that it] which comprises [particles] nanoparticles or at least one nanolatex of at least one polymer (P3) containing amphoteric units, comprising

- at least 70% of its weight of hydrophobic monomer units (N)

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

- at least 0.1 % of its weight, [preferably not more than 20% of its weight and most particularly not more than 10% of its weight,] of amphoteric hydrophilic monomer units (F2)
- optionally uncharged or non-ionizable hydrophilic monomer units (F4)
- optionally cationic or cationizable hydrophilic monomer units (F1),

the combination of hydrophilic monomer units (F) [preferably] representing at least 1 % of the weight of the polymer (P3), and the molar ratio of the cationic charges to the anionic charges ranging from 1/99 to 80/20 depending on the desired use of the said composition.

22. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 21, [characterized in that the] wherein said composition is a tumble dryer additive or an aqueous ironing formulation when the molar ratio of the cationic charges to the anionic charges ranges from 1/99 to 80/20.

23. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 21, [characterized in that the] wherein said composition is a detergent formulation, a prespotter, a tumble dryer additive or an aqueous ironing formulation, [when] and the molar ratio of the cationic charges to the anionic charges ranges from 1/99 to 60/40 [and preferably from 5/95 to 50/50].

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

24. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 16, [characterized in that it] which comprises [particles] nanoparticles or at least one nanolatex of at least one polymer (P4) containing both cationic or cationizable units and anionic or anionizable units, comprising

- at least 70% of its weight of hydrophobic monomer units (N)
- cationic or cationizable hydrophilic monomer units (F1)
- anionic or anionizable hydrophilic monomer units (F3)
- optionally amphoteric hydrophilic monomer units (F2)
- optionally uncharged or non-ionizable hydrophilic monomer units (F4),

the combination of hydrophilic monomer units (F) [preferably] representing at least 1% of the weight of the polymer (P4), and the molar ratio of the cationic charges to the anionic charges ranging from 1/99 to 80/20 depending on the desired use of the said composition.

25. Composition according to Claim 24, [characterized in that the] wherein said composition is a tumble dryer additive or an aqueous ironing formulation [when] and the molar ratio of the cationic charges to the anionic charges ranges from 1/99 to 80/20.

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

26. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 24, [characterized in that the] wherein said composition is a detergent formulation, a prespotter, a tumble dryer additive or an aqueous ironing formulation, [when] and the molar ratio of the cationic charges to the anionic charges ranges from 1/99 to 60/40 [and preferably from 5/95 to 50/50].

27. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 16, [characterized in that it] which comprises [particles] nanoparticles or at least one nanolatex of at least one polymer (PS) containing cationic or cationizable units and being free of anionic or anionizable units, comprising

- at least 70% of its weight of hydrophobic monomer units (N)
- at least 1% of its weight, [preferably from 3% to 30% of its weight and most particularly from 1% to 10% of its weight,] of cationic or cationizable hydrophilic monomer units (F1)
- optionally not more than 20% of its weight of uncharged or non-ionizable hydrophilic monomer units (F4).

28. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 27, [characterized in that the] wherein said composition is a detergent formulation, a rinsing and/or softening formulation, a tumble dryer additive, an aqueous ironing formulation or a prespotter.

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Marked-up Claims 1-32

29. (Amended) Process for caring for fabrics [by] comprising treating [the] said fabrics in an aqueous or wet medium with the composition [forming the subject] of [any one of Claims] Claim 1 [to 28].

30. (Amended) [Use, in a composition] A process for treating fabrics to impart crease-resistance, softening and/or pre-spotting properties which comprises contacting the fabrics in an aqueous or wet medium[, of] with nanoparticles or [of] at least one nanolatex of polymer (P) that is insoluble in the said medium[, as a fabric care agent].

31. (Amended) [Use] Process according to Claim 30, [characterized in that the] wherein said nanoparticles or [the said] nanolatex protect the fabrics against physical or chemical degradation and/or provide softening and/or crease-resistance properties.

32. (Amended) [Use] Process according to Claim 30 [or 31], [characterized in that the said treatment compositions and the] wherein said nanoparticles or [the said] nanolatex of polymer (P) form the subject of [any one of Claims 2 to 28] Claim 7.